

Press Release



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Snowmobile Trails Opening Soon with New Regulations

The North Dakota state snowmobile trail system will be opening soon and proper understanding of the laws and safe operation is a top priority.

Starting this season the State of North Dakota is requiring that all out-of-state and out-of-country snowmobiles obtain an out-of-state trail permit to operate on public right of way and trail systems. The permits cost \$15 each and are available from the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department office in Bismarck or any of the fourteen state parks throughout the state. Phone orders are also available by calling 701-328-5357. This change was a result of changes made during the 2003 legislative session, which went into effect August 1, 2005.

Other changes allow in-state residents to place their registration stickers on the back half of the machine as long as it is placed on each side of the snowmobile in a position as to provide clear legibility for identification. Previously, the law dictated the registration stickers be placed on the front half of the snowmobile, but due to new materials being used in production of snowmobile hoods the law was modified.

Special permits will be issued by the North Dakota Department of Transportation to operate snowmobiles solely as collector's items that are 25 years or older for parades, organized group outings and for up to ten days each year for transportation without requiring registration of the machine.

North Dakota law was also changed to make it mandatory that any person over the age of twelve without a motor vehicle driver's license must obtain a snowmobile safety certificate to operate a snowmobile unless they are on private land. A listing of safety courses can be viewed at www.parkrec.nd.gov or by calling 701-328-5357.

Play in our backyard!

Before beginning a ride be sure to be prepared—always make sure you have the proper equipment with you, along with any extra gear you may need to protect yourself in the sub-zero temperatures of a wind-chilled North Dakota winter. It is also important to perform a suitable pre-ride inspection to guarantee your machine is in good condition.

Always bring a first aid kit which includes things such as bandages, sterile wipes, antibiotic ointment, pain relief pills, latex gloves and other useful items. A survival kit is also a necessity and includes materials such as food, water, a cell phone, water proof matches, a map and compass, a cutting tool and a space blanket.

It is a good idea to ride in groups and never alone so help is never far away. If riding at night always make sure to wear reflective material so other riders can see you. When riding over frozen bodies of water, ensure there is a solid base of at least eight inches before riding. Remember to cover all areas of skin to prevent frostbite. Be courteous of other riders and follow all trail regulations.

Current snow conditions, trail openings and closing, or a current regulations booklet may be obtained online at www.parkrec.nd.gov or at www.snowmobilend.org. Information is also available by calling 800-HELLOND or 701-328-5357.